A couple of proposals were defeated: a resolution that would have required a candidate for ALA president to have 400 signatures on a petition rather than the current 25 and a proposal that would shift the reponsibility of selecting conference sites to Council instead of the staff. The site selection question was interesting, because it illustrated the restrictions imposed by our organization. There are currently ten sites possible for ALA conferences: Anaheim, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, New York, Chicago, Dallas, New Orleans, Atlanta, and Washington D.C. The cities must have 2,000 meeting rooms, 35 ballrooms, 1,000 exhibit spaces, and 7,000 sleeping rooms, as well as transportation, trained media personnel, and all the other niceties we require. Boston is currently being considered as the eleventh site.

Membership Meeting

The Membership meetings were lively and packed. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend most of the first meeting — information is available in the conference publication of the Junior Members Round Table. The membership resolved that ALA should condemn all restrictions placed on information essential to citizens' decision-making and should demand release of all information useful to the members of Congress and the citizens of the U.S. Another resolution called for the publication of the affirmative action record of ALA staff in *American Libraries*. The ALA Conference Program was requested to list all hotels of meeting rooms that are inaccessible by wheelchairs. A final resolution debated intellectual freedom versus a racism issue within the context of vendors who sell materials to South Africa. That resolution was defeated.

The second membership meeting found members calling for a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TTD)/Teletypewriter (TTY) to be installed at association headquarters. Council amended this to include the Washington Office, as well. A report of the ALA Standing Committee on Library Education recognizes an honor roll of outstanding individuals in library education. States are encouraged to select individuals for recognition. The centennial year provides a chance for local libraries to educate the public about the special educational requirements of librarians. The Freedom to Read Foundation report was both enlightening and frightening, as there is a growing number of censorship challenges.

Chapter Relations Committee

The Chapter Relations Committee had two meetings at the conference. The following topics were discussed: liability insurance is now available for chapters, and literature will be mailed to members in this regard. The chapter editors discussion group was revitalized after a few years hiatus. There was a chapter booth that exhibited the handouts, publications, posters, and other promotional materials created by state and regional associations. The presidents-elect orientation was very successful and will be held at midwinter, San Antonio, as well as the annual conference in New Orleans.

The Chapter Conclave topic was the new tax law and its effects upon associations with IRS statuses 501 (c) 3 or 501 (c) 6. It was a delightful presentation as Stefan Moses proceeded to outline the strange and wonderful workings of the IRS. He noted, for example, that the 80% deductible for meals at conference is increased to 100% if you are attending a banquet, which is defined as a meal where there are at least 40 people, of which 50% must come from out of town, and there must be a banquet speaker. Future conclave meetings will include such topics as association finances, planning your conference, etc.

Membership Committee

Council and Membership Committees have such different approaches that it is difficult to go from one to the other. In Council, I find myself worrying about the cost of services and trying hard to keep the association tamed. In Membership, I am trying to find ways to attract and retain members. One proposal that came to Membership was to change the definition of student members to enable more part-time students to join. It passed and will be sent for study of its fiscal implications. A joint ALA/Chapter membership rate was considered, the idea being to reduce rates for joint members. The person who brought this up is going to do further research on the topic. The concept of an organizational membership coupon book was presented. The rest of the meeting was devoted to working out the strategies for retention and attraction of members, as part of the long range plan. Some of the attraction strategies included the establishment of a paraprofessional membership and the production of a videotape highlighting the advantages of ALA membership. My group worked on incentives for members with continuous years of membership. We will be reporting on this to the working group in November.

Calendar

ALA comes to Idaho! At the ILA conference, ALA will be featured at the opening general session when ALA President, Margaret Chisholm will be the featured keynote speaker. And you can learn what ALA can do for you — come to the ALA breakfast at ILA. ALA staff member Patricia Scarry is also tentatively scheduled to speak.

ALA Midwinter Meeting: San Antonio, Texas Jan. 9-14, 1988
ALA Annual Conference: New Orleans, LA July 9-14, 1988

Toll Free ALA

To call ALA, dial 1-800-545-2433. Ask for a membership brochure if you're not already a member!

In July, I finshed my final annual conference. Now it's time to groom one of you to assume this position. To be successful in the job of Chapter Councilor/Federal Relations Coordinator, you need to have a good working knowledge of ILA, which you can gain by being active in the association and coming to the board meetings. You must also be willing to learn how ALA functions, have strong arms for carrying mountains of documents, and be fearless about protecting your association's interests. A sense of humor will smooth over those moments when the hotel has lost your reservation or your luggage has taken a shortcut to Tahiti while you await it in Chicago. And if you can speed read and write; you're a natural! If you are interested in running for this position, now is the time to begin your preparations.

Lynn Baird
ALA Councilor

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Full color "change your mind" poster by Marc Simont for 1987 National Children's Book Week

Wisdom from Dusty Tomes

(a column of relevant thoughts from great and not-so-great literature)

"She sat at a table, shivering and hugging herself, warming slowly but deeply chilled. She dozed fitfully, in flight to the sun coast where white birds fly, and a white-haired librarian shook her awake and said: 'Madam, the rules do not allow sleeping in here,' and she placed a back issue of *Life* magazine in front of Helen . . . 'But you may stay as long as you like, my dear, if you choose to read.' The woman smiled at Helen through her pince-nez and Helen returned the smile. There are nice people in the world and sometimes you meet them. Sometimes."

William Kennedy
Ironweed